

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION (SUPRA) HELD ON THURSDAY
27th APRIL 2006 AT 6.00 PM

Present: Jenny Leong (President and Chair), Roozbeh Araghi, Richard Bailey, Mike Beggs, Jodie Coleman, Alison Doriean, Lian Jenvey, Anthony Kachenko, Xue Yang Li, Estelle Noonan, Will Noonan, Timotheos Roussos, Rosemary Whitecross,

Apologies: Kate Barnsley, Frances di Lauro, Brian Doyle, Kirsten Harley, Adrienne Jerram, Mark Kelly, Sophia Leon de la Barra, Zhen Yi Li, Leona Oliver, Julian Pinder, Jun Zhao

In attendance: Jack Clegg (Postgraduate Fellow of Senate)

1. Minutes of meeting held on 5th April 2006

- Motion: *THAT the first sentence of Item 15 be amended to read 'Please continue to publicise this event.'* Moved Roozbeh Araghi, seconded Estelle Noonan. Carried.
- Motion: *THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 5th April 2006, with amendment, be accepted.* Moved Timotheos Roussos, seconded Mike Beggs, Carried.
- The minutes of the EGM held on 12th April 2006 were noted.

2. Resignation from Council

Motion: *That the resignation of Jack Clegg from Council and as PAC Officer (because of perceived conflict with position on the Senate sub-committee on post-VSU and student organizations) be accepted, with acclamation and applause.* Moved: Will Noonan, seconded Anthony Kachenko, Carried.

3. President's Report

Motion: *THAT the Council accepts that the Jenny Leong is a member of SUPRA having paid her membership fees directly to the Finance Manager after a motion passed at the AFC meeting of Monday 24 April 2006.*

Motion: *THAT the Council endorses the President and Vice President as SUPRA delegates to the CAPA Special Council Meeting and AGM on 20-21 May 2006 and approves the cost conference registration (\$110 each) and return airfares.*

Motion: *THAT as a way of encouraging postgraduate students to vote in the University of Sydney Union elections, the Council supports:*

the circulation of a short questionnaire to all Union Board Candidates

the posting of the candidates answers on the SUPRA website

a special eGrad alert notifying postgrads of the USU elections and the responses on the SUPRA website

Motion: *THAT the Council supports the President's stipend continuing at the rate of 35 hours per week until the end of the Council term.*

- The Post VSU meeting will be held at 5.00 on Wednesday 3 May so as not to clash with PASC
 - CAPA – each organization has one vote
 - Questionnaire for union elections – the Vice President and Jack Clegg will discuss
- Motion: *THAT Council accepts the President's Report with the motions contained therein (detailed above).* Moved: Roozbeh Araghi, seconded Estelle Noonan. Carried

4. Vice-President's Report

Motion: *THAT the Vice President be authorised to work up to 14 hours a week until the end of this council's term.*

- The Vice President suggested we should consider reinstating the SUPRA postgraduate teacher of the year award, and that we should look at recognising workplace supervisors and postgraduate coordinators.

Motion: *THAT Council accepts the Vice-President's report with the recommendations contained therein.* Moved: Will Noonan, seconded Alison Doriean. Carried.

5. Treasurer's Update

- The Treasurer tabled the draft budget. Subscriptions have decreased – there are about 12,500 enrolled postgraduates, with some exemptions to be followed up. No other significant alterations. The budget allows for an operating profit of \$110-120,000 .
- The audit should be completed tomorrow. For 2005 there was a loss of approximately \$100,000, which was partly due to the Administrator's costs.
- An overview of questionable expenses for 2005 was tabled. In SUPRA's financial records, some of these expenses have been listed under committee expenses etc. Some of the expenses relate to physical items which we could try to claim back. The President suggested we could allocate a small amount of money to get legal advice as to whether we can circulate this to the AGM and to seek advice as to whether it is better to write letters, report matters to various bodies, etc.
- The auditors' comprehensive report will be referred to AFC and Council.
- The Treasurer is investigating defamation insurance – SUPRA will take out a policy.
- NEST have sent application forms for staff entitlements money. The Finance Manager and the Vice President are looking at amounts required.
- The second instalment of the auditors fees of \$5,500 is due for payment.
- The Treasurer will be away from 7th to 23rd May.
- The Treasurer requested to be stipended for up to 7 hours per week to end of Council's term.

Motion: *THAT Council endorses the draft budget (with addition of Conference under Soiree (Activities and Functions) and accepts the Treasurer's update with recommendations contained therein.* Moved: Will Noonan, seconded Timotheos Roussos. Carried.

6. Secretary's Report

Recommendation: *THAT Jodie Coleman be appointed as PAC Officer.*

I would like to request approval to work stipended hours between 3 and 14 per week to the end of the Council term, depending on the workload.

Motion: *THAT Council accepts the Secretary's report with the recommendations contained therein.* Moved: Alison Doriean, seconded Anthony Kachenko. Carried.

7. International Officer's Update

The Barbeque for international students (both undergraduate and postgraduate) will be held next Wednesday 3rd May at 12.30 pm on Wentworth Lawns.

8. Indigenous Officers' Update

An Indigenous Network meeting will be held in May before the AGM.

9. Queer Officer's Report

- The SRC is funding \$4,400 for Queer Collaborations. The Queer Officer requested that SUPRA fund \$1600. Council had previously requested to see budget. Council in principle supports the funding, and will allow AFC to make decisions on allocation of funds pending budget details being provided by the organisers.
- It was suggested we should put a small ad in eXpress about the ACTU demonstration on June 28th against the Work Choices legislation, as posters may not be so effective at that time.
- The President requested that the term 'gay marriage' be removed from advertising material such as for the QPN meeting on May 4.
- The Queer officer requested to be stipended up to 7 hours per week.

Motion: *THAT Council accepts the Queer Officer's report, with recommendations contained therein.* Moved: Estelle Noonan, seconded Will Noonan. Carried.

10. Women's Officer's Report (tabled)

Motion: *That the council approves the Women's Officer's maximum stipended hours to remain at 7 per week for until the next council meeting.*

Motion: *THAT the Women's Officer's Report and recommendations therein be accepted.* Moved: Will Noonan, seconded Timotheos Roussos. Carried.

11 Publications Report

- eXpress – all copy is in except for the majority of office bearers. Spot Press interested in printing.
- PASC will hold an emergency meeting on Monday or Tuesday with the proposed new designer.
- The Director of Publications requested to be stipended up to 14 hours a week for the remainder of the term of the Council.

Motion: *THAT Council accepts the Publications report, with recommendations contained therein.*

Moved: Jodie Coleman, seconded Alison Doriean. Carried.

12. Report from the Postgraduate Fellow of Senate

- The Senate's VSU taskforce met on Monday. SUPRA will be first off the rank with submissions.
- The Senate now has two sub-task forces. One consists of the Registrar, Nancy Dolan (University's General Counsel), Jack Clegg and Alan Cameron. The main committee will meet again before the end of May. It is likely that the Union and the Sports Union will become controlled entities. There is a commitment to maintaining independent services for the SRC and SUPRA. Clubs and societies already generate income. The Union is expected to make \$4 million profit this year.
- The changes to SUPRA's constitution adopted at the EGM on 12 April are in the papers for the Senate meeting on 1 May.

Motion: *THAT Council accepts the report from the Postgraduate Fellow of Senate.* Moved: Will Noonan, seconded Jodie Coleman. Carried.

13. Staffing

The work reports of Jaclyn Booton and Ann Turner were tabled. Gina Browne's will be circulated tomorrow. If any councillor has questions about the report, please ask for responses.

14. VSU

a) Second Semester

- The President will meet with the Registrar's Office next week together with other student associations. There is likely to be a discount available for new students joining all the organisations. At this stage it is proposed that people have to opt in, rather than opt out. It is also problematic that SUPRA is grouped with other (more expensive) organisations. Perception we have that is that SUPRA is a bargain – if explained properly it would be the most obvious choice for a student to join.
- The President needs guidelines for meeting. Council supports that there should be a clear itemisation of the fees on the initial invoicing, with an 'opt out' strongly supported. Happy for discount if students join all organisations. We need the ability to provide information about what SUPRA is to go out with student invoices..
- Can SUPRA have access to enrolment venues to answer questions and recruit people?
- If there is a discount for joining all, then they are effectively getting SUPRA for free.
- Should have provision for one-semester fees.
- The university should commit to recommending that people join.
- If opt in – 20% discount
- At all stages there should be itemisation as to what is paid – but Council supports the idea of discount for membership of all student organisations.
- If students are life members of the Sports Union and Union – would they get a discount on SUPRA fees?
- Council asked the President to e-mail other organisations to say that SUPRA supports opt out, etc., and suggest another meeting scheduled for another time on say Friday of next week, so that if no agreement is reached, we can go back to our membership for further guidance.

- President will ask CAPA to seek legal advice on whether it is legal to have an 'opt out'.

b) 2007

- The President tabled a proposed submission to the committee, which is based on the University's Strategic Plan for 2006-2010. This plan identifies four core areas for reform which will require leadership. The submission was written to show how SUPRA impacts on those core areas, and how SUPRA can impact on cost-effectiveness. If the university funded fully, some things would be open to all postgraduates – other things open to members only. Only members of SUPRA would be representatives on university committees, etc. It is necessary to ensure independence from the university.
- There was discussion about the proposed future budget attached to the submission. Suggested amendments were: allow more for contingencies, stipends to stay as current at \$140,000, legal advice should be higher, staff training under administration, provisions for extra staff costs (make SAAOs and Policy Officer \$70,000 each), a fund for capital expenditure, e.g. buying new computers, etc. .
- There should be an emphasis on ethics – the most ethical thing for the university to do is to fund student organizations.
- Office space. There is no written agreement that we can have this space, and we should include in this in the agreement.
- Identify the costs the university can absorb rather than giving us cash, e.g IT and (some) legal advice, insurance, payroll, accountancy and audit, office space, utilities, etc., conference costs. SUPRA might need some independent financial advice.
Motion: *THAT Council accepts the draft with discussed changes to be submitted to the Senate Committee on VSU.* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross, seconded Jodie Coleman. Carried.

15. Administration & Finance Committee

Motion: *THAT the minutes and recommendations of meetings held on 12th April, 21st April and 24th April be accepted.* Moved: Will Noonan, seconded Anthony Kachenko. Carried.
Nominations were called for additional members of the AFC. Jodie Coleman was the only nominee. Motion: *THAT Jodie Coleman become a member of AFC.* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross, seconded Roozbeh Araghi. Carried.

16. Policy Advisory Committee

Motion: *THAT the minutes and recommendations of the meeting held on 21st April be accepted.*
Moved: Will Noonan, seconded Jodie Coleman. Carried.

18. Publications, Activities & Services Committee

The number of copies of eXpress to be printed to go back to PASC
Motion: *THAT the minutes and recommendations of the meeting held on 11th April be accepted.*
Moved: Alison Dorian, seconded Will Noonan. Carried.

19. AGM/Elections

- The revised Timeline, allowing for an election either under the new constitution if accepted by the Senate and under the old constitution was noted. The earlier AGM under the old constitution is necessary because under that constitution an AGM has to be held 14 days after nominations close.
- An advertisement about nominations for the election will be in Honi Soit today.

20. Other Business

- The Secretary make it known on the website that there is a council vacancy.
- The Treasurer thanked everyone who had changed the resource room around.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 10th May at 6.00 pm.

The meeting finished at 8.15 pm.